

**SHARING
INFORMATION
WITH MEDICAL
PROVIDERS**

The Child Protection Law clearly provides for the sharing of case information between CPS and medical professionals involved in CPS cases. Besides being mandatory reporters, medical professionals provide special expertise and need to be kept informed of CPS information in order to provide fully informed diagnosis and treatment.

There are several points in time when information sharing may be requested and appropriate, including, but not limited to:

- When a medical professional sees a child on a routine visit or because of illness or injury, and findings indicate possible suspicion of child abuse or neglect. The medical professional may request a central registry clearance, family history with the department or other relevant information in order to develop a reliable medical opinion as to whether or not there has been harm done to a child intentionally.
- When feedback on the disposition of a complaint is requested by a medical professional who was the reporting person. A medical professional who has made a report, and is now providing treatment for a child and/or family must be provided follow up information. The medical professional needs to know what issues place the child at risk and what services the child and family are receiving. The medical professional and CPS worker can then coordinate services to the child and family more effectively. Child safety can also be better monitored.
- When the medical professional requested to examine a child suspected of having been abused or neglected is not the child's primary medical care provider and knows nothing of the child or his/her family.
- When medical information is needed by CPS to complete a CPS investigation, to provide information to the court, or to develop a more comprehensive services plan. (See PSM 713-06-Requesting Medical and Mental Health Record Information for information on requesting these types of records.)

See PSM 713-04-Medical Examination and Assessment for information on when a medical examination may be required in an

investigation and what information should be shared with medical professionals when a medical examination is requested.